

SEDGWICK COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
AUGUST 15, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Donald Schneider with Howard McCormick, Ronald Berges and Christy Beckman present. Vicki Sandlin, Julesburg Advocate joined the meeting in person. The Assessors Office, Finance Office, R&B Office, Clerk's Office, Communication Center, Treasurer's Office, and Extension Office joined the meeting via zoom.

McCormick moved to approve the agenda with the addition of reports on county building code inspector and county flower bed, grant for radios and gravel lease under new business and adding an executive session for contracts. Berges second, carried.

McCormick moved to approve the August 15, 2023, vouchers as presented. Berges second, carried.

McCormick moved to approve the August 8, 2023, minutes as presented. Schneider second, carried.

Schneider reported that he had a request from a concerned citizen to look into getting a building code inspector for the county. Schneider said maybe there will be a possibility of working with the Town as well.

Discussion was held on the flower bed in front of the courthouse as some complaints were received about the appearance and there is a big public event coming up this week. The Board thought it is the garden club's responsibility, but Beckman said it has always been the building maintenance responsibility unless there was an agreement made that no one was aware of. The Board will talk to Linda Langelo and will do some more research.

Schneider moved to approve the IGA between the County Commissioners and the County Clerk for the November 7, 2023, Election. Berges second, carried.

Schneider moved to approve the EMPG Special Projects radio grant in the amount of \$5,020. Berges second, carried. Discussion: This grant will be reimbursed at 50% and Rob Crowder will donate the two radios being replaced to the ambulance.

Discussion was held on the gravel lease with ACL Land & Cattle LLC.

Vickie Sandlin, Julesburg Advocate, asked the commissioners if they would like a 2-page ad in the Outdoor Guide for \$1,499. Discussion was held and McCormick moved to approve of the \$1,499 payment from lodging tax monies for the 2-page Outdoor Guide ad for Sedgwick County. Berges second, carried. Sandlin then asked for a donation of \$200 for the Harvest Festival and if the Board would like to put a fair thank you in the paper for \$77.50. The Board agreed to personally donate to both causes.

Kacey Campbell and Bob Coty, R&B, joined the meeting. Discussion was held on the lease for the gravel pit by the landfill and if the price for gravel is \$.70 per ton. Schneider will send the lease to Campbell for review. The Board asked if the R&B employees could be spared to help with a project to move permanent files that are stored in the courthouse to the storage container next week. Campbell told the Board they could help with this on Monday. McCormick asked Beckman to send an email to the employees to let them know. Discussion was held on a skid steer being used and the broken box on it. Campbell said it is now beyond repair and would like to purchase a new bucket in the amount of \$5,300. McCormick moved to purchase the new bucket for \$5,300 for the skid steer. Berges second, carried.

Matthew Crowder, Sheriff, joined the meeting. Crowder told the Board that there will be upcoming training offered on human trafficking and it may be opened to the public after the initial trainings. Crowder then told the Board that Sheriff Britton had applied for a grant when he was in office in the amount of \$16,000 and it was still available so he intends to get that moved so he can use that for needed equipment. Discussion was then held on the upcoming academy in Otero which starts next week. Crowder said he has an individual who is ready to go to that academy and after talking to Attorney Kelly Lowery, is wanting to pay him a stipend of \$1,000 per month while he is in there. The Board asked Crowder if there was a contract for this. Crowder said there will need to be one made. The Board would like to discuss this more in executive session. Schnieder asked Crowder if Phil Biersdorfer, Undersheriff, brought up discussion about the possible use of ankle monitors. Crowder said they have been busy and have not discussed it. Schneider gave Crowder the website for the company and discussion was held. Crowder will look into this. Crowder then asked about a motion that was made to extend Phil Biersdorfer's probation. Schneider told him that the probation period was up in July and since they had not heard from Crowder, they extended it. Crowder asked if they could take him off now and the Board said no. Crowder then recommended to the Board that Biersdorfer be released from probation after this two-month extension. Schnieder told Crowder that he had received some concerns about concealed carry issues. Crowder told the Board that they were behind due to faulty equipment but have since fixed that. Schneider asked Crowder if he received an application from an individual. Crowder said he just received it by fax and will take it to HR. Crowder left the meeting.

Ken Berges and Jim Beck, Commissioner Redistricting advisory board, joined the meeting. Schneider moved to go into recess at 9:04 a.m. for the Commissioner Redistricting Public Hearing. The advisory board met to re-draw the commissioner district lines for Sedgwick County as it had been over 40 years since this was done and the population in those districts shifted well over the 5% allowed by law. No guests attended the public hearing and no comments have been received. The meeting was reconvened at 9:19 a.m. and the advisory board left the meeting.

Rhonda Graham, Economic Development, joined the meeting. Graham brought up discussion about the local marketing district ballot question. She will work with Attorney Kelly Lowery on this. Graham then told the Board that an IGA will be needed for the \$17,000 auction items purchased for the high school between SCOR and the county. Graham said the IGA will allow SCOR to take control of the items for insurance purposed but the items will be split between SCOR, the county and childcare. Discussion

was then held on Viking North from a previous visit and the site visit and tipping fees. Graham told the Board that she receives \$2,500 of funding that she would like to use to set up her office. Graham then told the Board that the Town of Julesburg turned over J-Rec to SCOR and that since she has secured grants from the Stretesky Foundation, Gates Foundation and Marquardt Foundation in the amount of \$190,000 total, she would like to use \$10,000 of that on volleyball equipment. She also asked the Board to review the carpet and laminate for the rooms for the high school. Schneider moved to approve the purchase of the better-quality carpet for two of the rooms at \$2000 per room and laminate for one of the rooms. Berges second, carried. Schneider moved to approve the purchase of volleyball equipment at \$10,000. Berges second, carried. Graham left the meeting.

Larry Nail, Sedgwick County Economic Development, joined the meeting. Nail said he was following up on the support letter. He told the Board that the deadline was missed for the first grant and because of that the secondary grant will be much less. Nail asked the Board why they have delayed this support letter since they approved it in May. The Board told Nail that they are not comfortable with approving an open-ended letter of support. Nail told the Board he feels as though they are using their positions of authority to help one entity over another. Nail said he would like to work together and was surprised when Schneider showed him that the bylaws had been change on June 29, 2021, to remove the authority of the county Commissioners to appoint members to the Sedgwick County Economic Development Board or to have a non-voting member. Nail said that was never in the minutes. After a long discussion, all parties agreed to have a meeting to discuss the possibility of working together and to get a letter of support signed before September 1<sup>st</sup>. Nail left the meeting.

Greg Nein, Town of Julesburg, joined the meeting. Nein gave the Board the Fire Hall agreement for review. It expires in November and the Town is looking to increase the rental fees. McCormick suggested he look at the original agreement as he thinks there was a clause about not raising fees. Nein told the Board that Cedar Street will be blocked off tomorrow for fog coating. Nein told the Board that the Town would like to work together with the county and asked if the chipper that the Commissioners have asked for \$5,000 per day rental could be reduced. There was also discussion about the grass where the caboose is located and who's responsibility it is to mow that as the County owns that property, but the Town mows it. McCormick told Nein that the County maintains the gravel road that is owned by the Town. Nein told the Board that this is a small community, and the Town does try to help the County when it can and the Board told Nein that the County helps the Town as well. Discussion then changed to concerns with water for the Cobblestone. Nein told the Board that discussions were held about a booster pump and that the Town purchased one on their end in the amount of \$71,000. Nein left the meeting.

Schneider moved to go into executive session on August 15, 2023, at 10:37 a.m. To discuss the legal issues under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a); No business will be conducted, and no decisions will be made. Berges second, carried. The time is now 11:10 a.m. and the executive session has been concluded. The participants in the executive session were: Donald Schneider, Howard McCormick, Ron Berges and Cameron Britton. For the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go


into the executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record. Seeing none, we will continue with the next agenda item.


Schneider moved to approve the job offer to Victoria Dunker for the Community Center Director Position at \$18.65 per hour / 40 hours per week. Berges second, carried.

The Board will hold off on the assistant director decision until further clarification and another job posting. McCormick will talk to Kim Orth.

McCormick moved to have Kelly Lowery, County Attorney, contact the Sheriff to get clarification on the hiring process for the individual who is being considered for the academy and the stipend. Berges second, carried. Until there is clarification, the stipend has been denied.

McCormick moved to adjourn the meeting. Berges second, carried. The meeting was adjourned.

  
Donald Schneider, Chairman

  
Christy M. Beckman, Clerk to the Board